the other half after the defendant files his defence. Similar provisions are contained in the Presidency Small Cause Courts Act.

Reply of Government.—The matter will be referred to the Chief Court.

SUBJECT No. 40.

Reduction of stamp-duty on partition deeds.

Messrs. Linge Gowda and Amble Anniah Pandit, Mysore District Board.

Summary of discussion.—Partition deeds are not now generally executed on account of the heavy stamp-duty payable on them. Consequently many cases are brought before civil and criminal courts. The stamp-duty on them may be fixed at Rs. 2-8-0 for the first thousand and one rupee for every 500 up to Rs. 5,000.

Most of the partition deeds executed between poor people are on plain paper and if possible permission to use plain paper may be given in such cases.

Reply of Government.—Noted.

SUBJECT No. 41.

Reduction of fees for copies of judgments of criminal courts.

Messrs. Lakshminaranappa, Heggaddevankote Taluk, and A. Ramanna, Yedatore Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—To obtain certified copies of judgments of criminal courts, the parties have to pay a stamp fee at eight annas for every 360 words. In the case of the judgments of civil courts, a fee of only eight annas is levied for copies of judgments, whatever their length might be. As the rate fixed for copies of judgments of criminal courts is very heavy, it may be reduced to that fixed for copies of judgments of civil courts.

Reply of Government.—The matter will be again considered.

SUBJECT No. 42.

Heirship certificates.

Messrs. C. Vaman Rao and N. Subba Rao, Nagar Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Prior to the year 1901, no stamp fee was payable for obtaining heirship certificates when the property involved was below Rs. 1,000. A stamp fee of 2 per cent of the value of the property involved is now charged irrespective of the value of the property. As this acts as a hardship to the poorer classes of people, the old rule may be brought into force.

Reply of Government.—The subject has been finally decided last year.

SUBJECT No. 43.

Production of *khate* extracts in civil cases.

Mr. Syed Mohadeen Sab, Mysore Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The civil courts require extracts from *khate* in cases of sale of lands mortgaged to the plaintiff. As the particulars of the lands are given in the mortgage deed itself, the production of *khate* extracts may be dispensed with.

Reply of Government.—Will be referred to the Chief Court.

SUBJECT No. 44.

Batta to witnesses in criminal courts.

(*a*) Messrs. C. Vaman Rao and N. Subba Rao, Nagar Taluk.

(*b*) Mr. Seshachala Jois, Bannur Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—(*a*) Witnesses in criminal courts are not paid *batta*. As the attendance in courts involves an interruption of their regular business and additional expenditure, they may be given *batta* at the rates allowed to witnesses in civil courts. If the court cannot defray the expenses the parties may be made to pay them.

(*b*) The Representative Assembly members and other respectable persons attending criminal courts as witnesses may be given travelling allowance.

Reply of Government.—The existing system does not need any change.

SUBJECT No. 45.

Preservation of civil records.

Mr. S. R. Balakrishna Rao, Shimoga Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—The periods assigned for the preservation of the various kinds of records are very short. Execution applications, depositions of witnesses, exhibits, attachment lists and sale certificates may be preserved for about thirty years.

Reply of Government.—Will be referred to the Chief Court.

SUBJECT No. 46.

Notice to decree-holders on the deposit of the decree amount in civil courts.

Mr. B. Kesaviah, Chikmagalur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Decree amounts deposited in civil courts remain there for an unnecessarily long time as the decree-holders who live at a distance have no notice of the deposit. Civil courts may be ordered to notify the fact of such deposit to decree-holders within a fixed time.

Reply of Government.—This will be provided for in the new Civil Procedure Code.

SUBJECT No. 47.

Extension of time for return of documents filed in civil courts.

Mr. G. Srinivasa Murti, Hassan Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Documents filed in civil courts are required to be taken back within a month from the date of application. Otherwise the application is rejected and a fresh application has to be presented. The period may be extended to two months.

Reply of Government.—Will be referred to the Chief Court.

SUBJECT No. 48.

Medical certificates to witnesses in judicial courts.

Mr. Seshachala Jois, Bannur Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—When it was represented during the last session of the Assembly that the local medical officers should be authorized to grant certificates to parties and witnesses summoned by civil and criminal courts, Government declined to comply with the prayer. It is now prayed that the medical officers may be authorized to give certificates on payment of prescribed fees, if they go to the private residences of parties, and free, if the parties present themselves at the hospital. Hospital Assistants demand a fee of Rs. 5 for every certificate even if the parties go to the Hospital.

Reply of Government.—No action is considered necessary as no law prescribes the production of such certificates.

SUBJECT No. 49.

(*a*) Female guards to watch female prisoners.

(*b*) Custody of under-trial prisoners.

(*a*) Mr. B. Narasinga Rao, Seringapatam Municipality.

(*b*) Messrs. B. Narasinga Rao, Seringapatam Municipality; and B. Oosman Khan, Bangalore City Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—(*a*) Female guards may be employed to watch the prisoners of that sex.

(*b*) In spite of the appointment of Medical officers or Special Sub-Registrars as lock-up officers, the control and influence of the police over the under-trial prisoners has not ceased owing to the lock-up being located in police stations and police constables employed as guards.